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I. 1. His wife's name is Zina, she works as a chemical engineer. They were married while K was still at the "Medical Institute, and she was at the university in Moscow. This must have been about a year before K's graduation. They were married "on the beach" -- probably a resort town on the Black Sea. Zina's father is dead. Her mother comes in every day to take care of the child. She wanted to live with K & his wife, but K apparently put up a fight against this idea, and in the end won out.

2. K's father had been imprisoned by the Germans. During that time he spent a lot of the time on the streets, because his mother did not want to keep him in the house. This was understood to mean that she was afraid she could also be arrested, and did not want K to go to prison with her, not because there was any ill will on her part.

3. K's grandfather (his father's father) was active in the Ukrainian co-op movement. There is an old gold watch among the family possessions. It is engraved with the name of Stepan Korotych ~~for~~ and presented for his services to the co-op. The watch had apparently never been used. It was always wrapped up in a drawer. Only the gold chain from it was sold during the war. Not long ago the grandmother passed this watch to K's father who took it to the jeweller to have it repaired, but was told that a watch not in use for such a long time, usually becomes ceased up. The gold watch now hangs suspended from the hand of a figurine on K's father's desk at home.

K's father no longer lectures at the university. There was some suggestion in the tone of voice, which implied that he is either not wanted as lecturer for political reasons, or else because his health, as the result of the imprisonment, is not up to the task of lecturing. He only works as researcher.

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K's mother's maiden name is CHORNOHOROVA. Her father was a nobleman in Kuban. After the Revolution he became an official in the civil service on the rayon level. He fulfilled his duties "with white gloves on", which did not endear him to his superior, a person of the proletarian background. After a few clashes the aristocrat Chornohora "took off his white gloves" and turned his back on the job. Apparently this was the only job he held under the Soviet rule.

Her mother traces her family ties to the Kotlarevskys, and there is still some old silver in K's house bearing the Kotlarevsky coat of arms.

K's mother began her career as a circus acrobat. She met her future husband in Kharkiv, and entered the university where he was a lecturer. She became a physiologist and is now completing her doctoral dissertation on blood substitutes.

She has been working on these blood substitutes for the past 15 years. This project is on the secret list, and she knows only a part of the project. The reason it is secret is that in the event of a nuclear attack, tons of blood will be required for the population. The blood substitutes are pink fluids, derived, apparently from the blood of animals. When perfected, they will be able to be used on humans with any type of blood. Unlike blood, these substitutes may be kept over longer periods of time without any particular precautionary care. They have already been used on humans, but the experiments are not yet completed.

Both K's parents were born in 1909

II 1. Accident on the stairs. K was giving blood for experimental purposes, and instead of lying down for 15 minutes after the donation, he got up, and ran down the stairs of his clinic. Suddenly he lost consciousness and fell down the stairs. There was no one about, but some said later that it sounded as if a heavy chest of drawers rolled down. K received a concussion and for a day or two completely lost his memory. Later he began to remember his old poems, and regained his memory, but he says it is not what is used to be. From time to time he suffers from severe headaches, but these come very seldom now.

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2. A little over a year ago he says he suffered periods of depression, and thought he was going mad. This could possibly coincide with the proposed trip to Cambodia. When he was urged to go to Cambodia, to set up a clinic there, K was reminded of his civic duty, and the fact that the State has spent much money on him. This apparently differed from the type of trip to the Virgin Lands. He says that in the majority of cases young person willingly go to the Virgin Lands, or the other Asian republics, not under moral pressure (as the proposed trip to Cambodia), simply because that's where money can be made fast.

3. After graduating from the Medical Institute, K worked as a gynecologist for two or three years in Chernihiv. There were three doctors in that clinic: K, his fellow graduate, and their chief, a Georgian. He spent most of his time performing abortions: "I used to scrape them all days long." A legal abortion costs 3 rubles, and only the woman's consent is necessary. There are also illegal abortions, at 30 rubles. These are more dangerous because the woman does not get a chance to stay in bed for a couple of days. K said he stayed away from the illegal abortions. Patients for the illegal abortions are usually married women, who don't want anyone to know that they are pregnant and students, who don't want to explain why they have to go to the clinic for three days.

The government adopted legal abortions, because other means of birth control were not found effective.

4. To get a UNESCO fellowship K had to write a two-page statement of purpose in English. This both tested his knowledge of English, and outlined what he proposed to study.

He has a blue passport which is called "service" passport. There is also a green(?) passport, or diplomatic, and red, or tourist. The blue passport is in between the diplomatic and tourist in importance. This is the only document he has with him. He had to leave all others behind.

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He did not apply either for the passport or the visa. It was all done for him, and he was presented with the passport before leaving. On the passposrt there are two Canadian visas. One -- issued in January, is stamped over with the word cancelled. The other -- issued in February is the valid one. Over the visa the word "courtesy" is written by hand. This would probably indicate that K did not have to pay for the visa.

His Son

K's son is named Andriy, after K's friend, the 40-year-old A.O.Biletskyy (See Ukrainian Sov. Encyclopedia, Vol. XVI:519). He is a Kiev professor of ancient languages, and K openly admits that he is envious of Biletskyy. He says Biletskyy has a young wife, who had completed the doctorate in physics. Then she met Biletskyy and switched to ancient languages and completed a doctorate in that also. K says the two are very much in love and that there are thousands of books in their home (as opposed to mere 2,000 in K's home).

Drach

When he was in Toronto, K received a letter from Drach, announcing the birth of his son (first child). Drach named him Maksym, in honor of Rylskyy. Drach is married to a simple Ukrainian girl, a Marusia or "alya."

His friends.

There is no clearly defined group of people. They know each other, and a rule of thumb, to determine whether the person is "in" or "out" is when any of them appear publicly for a performance. They never read poetry on the same program with members of the "out" group.

He did not know any of them, until he made his name as a poet. Now they frequently come to visit him, but he says that he rarely goes out to other people's places.

His contacts with the Poles is on a personal basis. Prof. Florian Neuwazny invited him to give lectures at the University of Warsaw. He was only paid the expenses. There he met other persons, who asked him to write for TV and radio. Similarly he came to write the review of the almanach HEMIN. It is not available in the Ukraine, but friends in Poland sent it to him "in plain wrapper", and he wrote a review of it. One day he received a phone call at work from Warsaw to send in a script for Polish radio on Shevchenko. The telephone connection was bad, so that the two operators had to pass information between the two parties, by double repetition. It was very awkward, but they managed to get through.

Army duty.

He served only three months in a boot camp, but because he is a doctor, he holds the rank of lieutenant in the Reserve.

Other personalities

Dzyuba: "I got him a job as editor in the Molod Publishing House." He is to get an apartment very soon, not far from K's place. Dzyuba has TB. He also has a daughter, born recently, and K is afraid that the daughter already has been infected.

Hutsalo: He is in charge of prose and criticism departments at Literaturna Ukrayina.

Russian writers: K speaks about them with disdain. He says They all live in special writers' apartments, are bored with nothing to do, and switch mates from time to time. K told how Akhmadulina (?) left Yevtushenko and went to live with a prose writer on a different floor.

Soviet elections: K expressed great interest in the news that 175 candidates were not elected this year. He said this is significant. He also repeated several times the fact that now voters have power to recall their deputies.

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